

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing(s) include changes to Figures 11-13, 14A and 14B. The sheets containing Figures 11-13, 14A and 14B replace the original sheets including Figures 11-13, 14A and 14B. In Figures 11-13, 14A and 14B, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, the abstract, drawings and claims 1-10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

The abstract has been amended to improve the form of the abstract.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 11-13, 14A and 14B were objected for failing to include a legend such as "Prior Art." Appropriate correction has been made to Figures 11-13, 14A and 14B.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Miyazaki et al. (US 6,280,096) (hereinafter "Miyazaki") in view of any of Murden (US 2,126,912) (hereinafter "Murden"), Brawley (US 4,060,290) (hereinafter "Brawley"), Sawai et al. (US 5,577,323) (hereinafter "Sawai") or Yasuda et al. (US 5,261,159) (hereinafter "Yasuda").

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Miyazaki in view of any of Murden, Brawley, Sawai or Yasuda, and further in view of Takemura et al. (JP 2003-097569) (hereinafter "Takemura").

Claims 1-10

Amended independent claim 1 recites: "...wherein the angle of fiber flow relative to at least one of the raceway surface in the hub axle and the raceway surfaces in the outer member is chosen to be equal to or smaller than 15°."

Amended independent claim 2 recites: "...wherein the angle of fiber flow relative to the raceway surface in the hub axle is chosen to be equal to or smaller than 15°."

Amended independent claim 3 recites: "...wherein the angle of fiber flow relative to each of the raceway surfaces in the outer member is chosen to be equal to or smaller than 15°."

Independent claims 1-3 have been amended to improve the form of the claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Murden, Brawley, Sawai and Yasuda to disclose bearing races in which the angle of fiber flow relative to each raceway surface is parallel, i.e., is chosen to be smaller than 15°.

However, each of the references relied on by the Examiner only disclose fiber flows extending parallel to the raceway surfaces. See, for example, the abstract of Yasuda. However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the relied upon references disclose or suggest fiber flows that are cut off, or fiber flows that are exposed on raceway surfaces as recited in claims 1-3. Accordingly, none of the relied upon references disclose **an angle of fiber flow** as recited in claim 1-3.

In greater detail, the references relied on by the Examiner disclose a forging method of raceway surfaces of a bearing ring having no flange. In such a bearing ring, metal flows can be adjusted to extend parallel to a surface shape of the raceway surface, and accordingly, fiber flows are hardly exposed on the raceway surface.

On the other, since an inner member 3 (reference numerals from the drawings of the subject application are added here for exemplary purposes only) has flange 5 extruding radially, metal flows deflect about 90° at a root portion of the flange, and as a result, fiber flows tend to be exposed on the raceway surface. Accordingly, it is not easy to avoid an exposure of the fiber flows, so the present invention is directed to controlling the angle of fiber flow to be smaller than 15°. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1-3 are not obvious over the relied upon references.

Claims 4-10 depend on one of claims 1-3 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 4-10 have been amended to improve the form of the claims.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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